

ICE BREAKER

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EDITOR & PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR:
Anthea Wallhead

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT:
Robert Wallhead

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT:
Peter Wallhead

Comments and contributions for inclusion in future editions are most welcome. Please address them to:-

EDITOR, ICE BREAKER
MALCOLM WALLHEAD AND
ASSOCIATES
240 WATSONS ROAD
KETTERING, TASMANIA, 7155

PHONE : 03 6267 4774
FAX : 03 6267 4335
E-MAIL : wallhead@netspace.net.au

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EDITORIAL

The recent State election has resulted in changes in ministerial responsibilities and ICE BREAKER welcomes contributions from both the Deputy Premier, Paul Lennon, as the new Minister for Antarctic Affairs and Rene Hidding, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for this portfolio. Peg Putt, Leader of the Greens, has also provided an article, making the tri-partisan support of this magazine complete.

As the new Director for the Office of Antarctic Affairs, Greg Johannes, does not begin until this month, Bill Bleathman, the former Director, has kindly contributed to this issue. ICE BREAKER thanks the Premier, Jim Bacon, former Liberal Minister Martin McManus, and Bill Bleathman for providing articles every quarter, despite their already busy schedules.

Re the Midwinter Festival. Several times during my minor involvement with the Organising Committee, I heard a question which puzzled me: What's in it for my children? Although I admit a strong bias towards the value of Antarctic knowledge, did this question mean that parents were not interested in taking their children to activities such as historical displays, the Huskies Picnic, Antarctic Adventure, or the glacier rescue demonstration? Was there an expectation of a fully supervised, Disneyland-like extravaganza of an Antarctic Fun Park for children, while the parents stayed at home? Did these parents contact their children's school to encourage them to attend the Antarctic Discovery Days? While every enthusiastic group needs sceptics to remind them of alternate viewpoints, I recommend that the latter read some of the many positive letters received by the Event Co-ordinator, from teachers and parents of those school and family groups that attended Antarctic events and can't wait to participate in next year's Festival.

Cover Photo: Our international image. The Tasmanian Polar Network display booth at Shanghai. (Photo courtesy OAA).

FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER'S DESK

I would like to thank Anthea Wallhead for her kind invitation to contribute a regular column to the Ice Breaker Magazine.

Following the recent State Election, the portfolio responsibility for Antarctic Affairs has shifted from the Premier's portfolio to my area of responsibility. Continuing a close link between the important Antarctic initiatives that the State is currently pursuing and economic development is a logical and positive move.

I expect that during my term as Deputy Premier and Minister for Economic Development, Energy and Resources, I will have the opportunity to meet with individual sectors of our Antarctic community, as well as represent their interests.

The establishment of a Hobart to Casey Station air link is a key element for the State to increase its Antarctic offer in a global context. I fully support the efforts of the Tasmanian Polar Network in highlighting our capacities for implementation of this project.

The inaugural Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival was certainly a resounding success and provides an excellent platform for further expansion of this unique concept to promote Tasmania during a traditionally quiet time of the year.

I am particularly impressed with the way that Antarctic industries and the TPN have worked so positively with the State Government to promote Antarctica. The relationship between industry and government in this sector of our economy creates a positive model in encouraging similar relationships between other business sectors and government.

I look forward to a long and positive involvement in Antarctic issues. I welcome the opportunity to regularly contribute to the Ice Breaker magazine.

Paul Lennon, MHA

Deputy Premier

Minister for Economic Development, Energy and Resources



Midwinter
Festival
crowd in
Salamanca
Square
(OAA)



A MESSAGE FOR ICE BREAKER READERS

Thank you for your E-mail of 16 August and for your kind words. I'm excited about the future with such a talented team around me.

I can tell you that I have taken on responsibility for Antarctic Affairs as part of my position as Leader of the Opposition.

I appreciate the historic tri-partisan support involved with Antarctic Affairs and see no reason at all why such an approach should not be continued.

I will look forward to contributing to 'Ice Breaker' on occasion and appreciate the offer.

Yours sincerely,

Rene Hidding, MHA
Leader of the Opposition



AAD Zodiac Boat Team, Midwinter Festival (OAA)

PEG PUTT'S MESSAGE



The Antarctic is the greatest wilderness left on earth, and our decision-making in regard to its future should ensure that we maintain and enhance its natural and wilderness values. Unfortunately, lobbying government to shift its application of resources towards land based activities associated with the push for an air link has significant impacts on other areas of Antarctic activity. In essence it is important to be aware that you don't get additional money in a vacuum. Something else will miss out.

The Greens are concerned that maritime activities in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean are the areas which look to be missing out as a result of changing application of government funding. Illegal fishing for the Patagonian toothfish is having a disastrous impact, not only on fish stocks and the sustainability of the fishery, but on albatrosses which are killed as by-catch. This has reached the extent that we are faced with looming extinctions.

The effort to deal with this crisis needs focussed resources.

Lobbying efforts which are getting government to put their resources elsewhere are undermining the effort to secure the future of the albatross.

Clearly it was never the intention of those excited by the prospect of business to be done in association with an air link to cause such impacts, but it is important that members of the Polar Network recognise and reflect on the impacts of pursuing their agenda.

The need to keep investment in ship-based activities and to build up our proficiency in Hobart as a provedoring port and focus for ship-based access to Antarctica and its waters is significant in this context. Not only are commercial opportunities apparent, but also our capacity to fulfil the requirements of stewardship of the Antarctic environment would be maintained and enhanced.

Peg Putt

Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

At the Midwinter Festival – Bill Bleathman, Director, Office of Antarctic Affairs(1) and Guest of Honour, Dr Phillip Law.(OAA)





TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The last quarter has seen the first Tasmanian Midwinter Festival come and go – with a bang! I don't think even the most optimistic of us would have anticipated the success of the Event. Like anything else, success comes out of hard work and preparation and the Midwinter Festival was no exception. I offer my personal congratulations to all who put in the 'hard yards' to make it all happen. I am sure all TPN members would want me to also thank all those involved for their efforts.

If we think back to the beginnings of both 'Salamanca Market' (yes, some of us are old enough!) and the 'Taste of Tasmania', the genesis of the 'Midwinter Festival' was even more promising. I think that the future growth and expansion of the Festival holds the potential of matching both the 'Market' and the 'Taste' and it is very encouraging to see this view is shared by the State Government by its support to the Event. The fact that the Premier braved the cold night to launch the Festival and provided strong financial support to its initiation augurs well for its future. I am sure the Government is pleased with the initial outcomes achieved. The success of the Festival has a lot to offer both TPN members and the businesses which stand to benefit from its Antarctic focus. I am confident that next year will be even bigger and better with some interesting ideas for its expansion already floating about.

I want to make special mention of one of our members and acknowledge their special contribution to the success of the Midwinter Festival. The Mercury's support in preparing and publishing the Midwinter Supplement did much to get the Festival before 'Jo Public'. The size, content and style of the publication were very special and I wish to acknowledge the Mercury's contribution here.

As members are aware, the OAA/TPN obtained a grant from the Assistance to Industry Program within the Department of State Development and developed a CD-ROM of the TPN and the State's Antarctic capabilities. This is a tremendous product and aid to our work both as an entity and individually within our own enterprises.

The TPN attended and exhibited at the SCAR/SCALOP/COMNAP Conference in Shanghai, China in July 2002 where I understand both our Booth and our CD-ROM of the TPN and the State's Antarctic capabilities attracted a lot of attention and positive comment about Tasmania.

The TPN home page has been updated regularly, with the emphasis on individual members to update their own page, when changes occur. The welcome page is now translated into Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Russian and is thus far more open to global business.

With all TPN members I look forward to the flurry of activity and opportunity the spring and summer heralds.

Bill Lawson. August 2002.

OFFICE OF ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS



I am providing an article for this edition of Ice Breaker very much in a caretaker capacity until the new director commences in the position.

Mr Greg Johannes has been successful in gaining the nomination for this appointment. Greg will commence duties in the office on 2 September 2002 and will no doubt be in contact with you as he settles into the position. I am sure you will continue to provide to him the same level of support, ideas and encouragement you have given me during my period as Director of the office.

I would like to focus my comments in this edition on briefing TPN members on our recent trade delegation to the combined SCAR/SCALOP/COMNAP Meeting in Shanghai, China.

As members are aware, the TPN/OAA delegation comprised:

- Bill Bleathman (Office of Antarctic Affairs)
- Captain Richard Burgess (P & O Polar Pty Ltd)
- Geraldine Edwards (Moonraker Australia Pty Ltd)
- Richard Fader (Tasmanian Shipping Supplies, Purdon and Featherstone)

In addition, Norman Mackay and Terry Vickers from Skytraders Pty Ltd also attended the conference. Our attendance at this important conference and exhibition was successful at a number of levels.



Firstly, our presence served to reinforce to the global Antarctic community that Tasmania is serious about its role as an Antarctic gateway. The standard of our booth, with the display banners and our recently completed CD Rom, clearly placed us at the forefront of exhibitors at the conference.

Secondly, the opportunity for individual delegation members to establish and build on relationships with other Antarctic organisations was invaluable.

Thirdly, and probably most importantly, our small targeted receptions for countries with an Antarctic presence in Eastern Antarctica, namely France, Italy, China and Russia were received in a most positive manner by those countries. Feedback from the individual countries and representatives of the Australian Antarctic Division again reinforced that this was the most effective mechanism for highlighting our State. I would like to pay particular thanks to Skytraders for providing funding to assist in the hosting of these effective events.

Geraldine Edwards's presence and command of the Chinese language was a vital ingredient of the success of our delegation and set us apart from the 40 other exhibitors at the conference.

For those interested, a full copy of the report will be available at the next TPN meeting.

I would also like to thank those people involved in the highly successful Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival. The support, initiative and sheer capacity for hard work made this inaugural festival a successful Tasmanian event. It provides a strong foundation to expand into a larger winter festival that showcases Tasmania's unique relationship with Antarctica.

In closing, I would like to say that if you would like to come in from the cold and have a break from your Antarctic endeavours, a warm welcome awaits you at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. 200,000 visitors a year enjoy the institution. If you get a chance, please pop in and say hello.

BILL BLEATHMAN

ANTARCTIC CRC ACTIVITIES

The present Antarctic CRC funding term goes through to June 2003. Professor Garth Paltridge who has been the Director of the Antarctic CRC since its formation in 1991 retired in May 2002, and I have taken on the position of Director for the remaining part of this funding term. A/Prof. Andrew McMinn now holds the position of Head of IASOS (Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies).

A group of the partners of the Antarctic CRC together with others have prepared a new bid for a CRC in the current round of CRC applications. The new CRC is proposed to be called the CRC for Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems and aims to build on the work of the present Antarctic CRC and extend the research to new areas including the impacts of climate change on the Southern Ocean ecosystems. Successful bids for this current round of applications are due to be announced before the end of 2002 and would be able to start with funding by July 2003.

This last summer field season was particularly successful for the Antarctic CRC. A new borehole was drilled through the Amery Ice Shelf, measurements were made in the water below and instruments were put in place to continue measurements through the year. In front of the ice shelf the ocean hydrographic profiles were measured and the moorings which had run for the previous year were recovered. The data from these surveys provides the information required to constrain the ocean modelling to derive the melt rates under the ice shelf and how they may change with future warming.

On another voyage a remeasurement was made of the hydrography along the route of the SR3 line between Tasmania and the Antarctic. This has been the seventh measurement of this section by the Antarctic CRC and now provides a unique data set for the Southern Ocean showing the features of the annual cycle and the interannual variability, as well as providing data for the detection of climate change.

For next season the field work will include a revisit to the Amery Ice Shelf borehole to recover the data from the under-ice moorings. Another study for this coming season is to make measurements on icebergs to enable the derivation of their basal melt rates and other changes. Icebergs melt much more rapidly when they move into warmer waters and the information obtained on these higher melt rates will provide a further guide to changes which occur with future warming.

The Antarctic CRC and the University of Tasmania upgraded their joint supercomputer facility in February 2002. The new facility provides the support for analysis, modelling and data storage required to support the completion of this last stage of the present CRC program.

Bill Budd.
Prof. W. F. Budd
Leader of Modelling Program and
Director of the Antarctic CRC.

FROM THE FORMER SHADOW MINISTER FOR ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS

"A short note to thank you and all Ice Breaker readers for the chance to contribute to a wonderful magazine.

Wishing you all the very best for the future.

Kind regards,

Martin McManus
Former Liberal Member for Franklin"



ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE

SCIENCE IN SALAMANCA LAUNCHED

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Lara Giddings, launched the Science in Salamanca festival on Saturday, 17 August.

Ms Giddings said that Science in Salamanca, part of National Science Week, is going to make a significant, positive impact on the fields of both science and art through performance, exhibitions and the involvement of students.

"People attending the Science in Salamanca festival will be able to witness the artistic interpretations of 10 Tasmanian scientists through the eyes of different sectors of the community - professional artists, students, artists, books and an indoor sculpture.

"This festival is destined to generate public interest and will serve to generally educate all who visit and become involved.

"It is a community celebration of art and science - a coming together of two essential community pursuits That is often seen to be opposed.

"Scientific research and artistic inspiration will occur daily in the Salamanca precinct and the synergy between these two disciplines has been picked up as a major theme for the festival.

"It is not surprising that art and science are seen as being so significant here.

"In the past year, the State Government's policies on science and technology and the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean were launched nearby and Salamanca Place was seen as the hub of one of the many artistic initiatives of the Bacon Government, Ten Days on the Island."

Ms Giddings said that the five themes of Science in Salamanca all have a connection to today's Salamanca precinct and are relevant to all Tasmanians.

"The themes are climate change, marine ecology, Antarctica, genetics and nutrition.

"The research of the 10 Tasmanian scientists from CSIRO Marine Research and the University of Tasmania artistically represented in this festival, fit within these five themes."

Science in Salamanca continued until Saturday, 24 August 2002.

IMAGINATIVE RESULTS OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS

Synergy Too, the art exhibition in Antarctic Adventure was inspired by marine scientists' work posted on a website. School students and professional artists were invited to produce work based on the scientists' research and this resulted in 3 exhibitions around Hobart during Science Week. While the students' work was displayed at Antarctic Adventure, the professional artists' work was shown at the CSIRO's Marine Laboratories (*Synergy*) and Mawson Place Waterside Pavilion (*Binding Synergy*).

RECENT SEA VISITORS

The 250 kg giant squid washed up at Seven Mile Beach near Hobart was the third to be found ashore in Tasmania and appeared 16 years to the day (July 23) since the first squid was found. The latest squid was displayed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on August 23 during Science Week. The second squid was put on public display in June during the Midwinter Festival and attracted 3,500 people. Scientists believe squid numbers are increasing due to overfishing of other species and climate change.



HISTORIC WEBSITE

The International Polar Heritage Committee, established in 2000, has created a website for information about the human heritage of both north and south polar areas, particularly historic sites and monuments. Further details are available on www.polarheritage.com

DOUBLE TRAP

An Argentinean icebreaker, which reached a German ship trapped in pack ice off Antarctica in July, has also been stranded in the ice. The majority of scientists and crew were airlifted off the *Magdalena Oldendorff* by a South African ship and the *Almirante Irizar* was able to deliver 60 tonnes of food and 600,000 litres of fuel, but then it too became trapped near the Muskegbukta fjord. The Captain of the Argentinean ship reported there was no danger of either ship being crushed by ice.

NEW SNOW CARE

Hobart City Council's concern with visitors to Mt Wellington returning home with snowpeople on their car bonnets has resulted in the invention of the 'Snowy it'll slide off Snowperson Bonnet-belt'. The device was designed by 'Victoria Sledge-Porteous', a political activist and socialite who recently took up residence in Tasmania.

WINTER THEME

The University of Tasmania has formed a company called Southern Ice Porcelain Pty Ltd to make and market special porcelain plates designed by designer-maker Les Blakeborough and botanic artist Lauren Black. Six limited editions of special plates called 'Flora Tasmanica' are being made from Blakeborough's secret clay recipe, which is whiter and more translucent than others, and Black will be painting designs of native plants on each plate. The first of the plates, which features the Tasmanian snow peppermint, was launched in July. Each plate is signed by both artists.

An exhibition of Les Blakeborough's 'Southern Ice' vessels, all white, unglazed but finely textured, was on show during the Midwinter Festival at the Bett Gallery in Hobart.

ANTARCTIC MEDAL

Jon Reeve, a Tasmanian electronic engineer, is the winner of the 2002 Antarctic Medal.

EXTRA PATROLS

After warnings that supplies of Patagonian Toothfish could be exhausted by 2014, the Australian Government has increased surveillance in territorial waters to ensure illegal fishing is minimised. Russian flagged boats were recently caught near Heard and MacDonald Islands in the Southern Ocean, and illegal fishing operations are estimated to be catching 3000 tonnes a year, more than the tonnage allocated to legal fishing. The Government has also agreed to nominate the Patagonian Toothfish for inclusion in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

POLAR VIEW

A photo of icebergs taken by scientists at Germany's Alfred-Wegener-Institute was on show at Bremerhaven last month. The big-screen installation measured 45m x 4m.

NEW AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN VENTURE

This summer, an expedition of scientists and support staff will undertake an intensive study of the physical and climatic history of the Mt Cresswell area, in the Prince Charles Mountains. The project, called the Prince Charles Mountains Expedition Germany Australia (PCMEGA), will consist of 34 members, mostly from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) of Hannover, Germany.

The project officer will be Rob Easter from the AAD, and the expedition is scheduled from December 2002 to March 2003. The group will be travelling 500kms from Prydz Bay near Davis Station to Mt Cresswell, and field parties will be gathering rock samples to help identify the geological and glaciological processes which took place about 120 million years ago, when Australia and Antarctica were conjoined. Twin Otter fixed-wing aircraft and Squirrel helicopters will be used, as well as quads and snowmobiles. Last summer a six-member traverse team made a fuel depot 300 kms south of Mawson and in October this year a second traverse will deliver supplies, equipment and fuel to the PCMEGA field camp area. Expedition planning can be followed on www.aad.gov.au/expeditioner/projects/pcmega.asp.

FLYING HIGH

Skytraders, the 'preferred tenderer' for the AAD'S Air Transport Implementation project has been busy with the 'proving up' phase of the programme according to the company's CEO Norman Mackay.

Skytraders as the operator and the Australian Antarctic Division are working hard to develop the strongest possible case for eventual approval of plans that could include the deployment of the two CASA 212-400 aircraft as early as the 2003/2004 summer season. During June a team comprising Dr. Jo Jacka, Norman Mackay and Skytraders Director of Flying Operations, Capt Terry Vickers, visited ski manufacturers in Winnipeg along with EADS manufacturers of the CASA 212 at its head office in Madrid.

The Skytraders team concluded their European visit with meetings with British Antarctic Survey and Charles Swithinbank from the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, U.K. Prior to their arrival in Britain several days were spent in Ottawa where discussions with Transport Canada gave an excellent insight into the way in which overseas regulators address the issues raised by the operation of transport aircraft onto snow and ice.

"We were delighted with the open approach to information sharing displayed by everyone with whom we met. The level of enthusiasm shown by commercial organisations and industry bodies alike bodes well for the implementation programme. We are looking to utilise leading-edge technology in a manner which will make Antarctic aviation, safer, more environmentally focused and more cost-effective." Mr Mackay said.

The company's use of the CASA 212-400 will redefine operational parameters in terms of payload, range and outfield utility. Once funding arrangements are resolved for the Intercontinental Falcon 900EX component of the project, Tasmania will stand poised to become the springboard for a Casey hub servicing a raft of National Science programmes.

Representatives from Skytraders attended the COMNAP and SCAR conferences in Shanghai in July where they were overwhelmed by the level of interest shown by other nations in the proposed airlink.

"The concept of flying from Hobart to Casey in a high performance three engine jet prior to being transferred to station by a ski-equipped 212 caught the imagination of everyone involved in their nation's logistics programmes." Said Mr. Mackay.

The Air Transport working group meeting to which Dr Jo Jacka gave a detailed briefing along with a comprehensive CD presentation was a 'standing-room' only affair which gave rise to a raft of enquires throughout the conference from other potential users of the service.

"We believe that 'Shanghai' clearly demonstrated that the market is wide-open for Tasmania to become the operational base for a range of Eastern Antarctic National Science programmes. The high level of focus which the Australian plan places on environmental issues addresses an issue which other operators had been desperate to deal with."

"Whenever fuel is transported or transferred into aircraft there is an associated risk of spillage with resultant contamination. The Falcon operations requires little or no fuel to be made available in Antarctica and as a result not only can far superior science be conducted but this can be achieved with an improved environmental risk profile."

The final stage of the 212 ski evaluation programme was recently completed with the return of a Skytraders study group from Alaska. It now remains for the Air Transport Implementation team working closely with the Civil Aviation Safety authority and a group of independent experts to make the final decision regarding an hydraulic wheel-ski, a fibreglass penetration ski or a simple but utilitarian board ski.

Skytraders is now close to placing orders with CASA, the Spanish aircraft manufacturer for delivery dates in August, 2003. The company has already started scouring the world market for key personnel holding specialist snow and ice operating experience.

THE MIDWINTER FESTIVAL

The Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival 2002, held between June 15-23 this year, was an outstanding success. A total of over 27,000 people attended 80 separate events at 8 locations, and over 1200 children participated in student-oriented activities. A significant amount of corporate and government sponsorship, as well as a large number of volunteers contributed to the success of the Festival, with many already willing to support next year's events.

Major sponsors of the event included the Australian Antarctic Division; Department of State Development Offices of Antarctic Affairs (in charge of the Festival Organising Committee); Major Events; Tourism Tasmania; Communications, plus Screen Tasmania and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Media coverage, both local and interstate, played a critical role on promoting the Festival, with the Mercury newspaper the leading print media supporter, producing a 16 page full colour supplement and publicising Festival events daily. The Print Museum's exhibition '200 Years of Antarctic News' also played an important part of the school's program. Radio and television programs and advertisements promoted Antarctic people and events over the 10-day period and the Hobart City Council and CSIRO's assistance included the production and display of banners and Festival artwork.

The Hobart Grand Chancellor hosted the Midwinter Dinner, the Inaugural Phillip Law Lecture in the Federation Concert Hall, and photography exhibitions, while Antarctic Adventure catered for an extensive range of activities over the 10-day period. These included the Antarctic Division's Careers Market, a Tourism Expo, The Longest Night Film Festival, Antarctic History Walks and several school activities.

Other Tasmanian Polar Network members were involved in organisation, sponsorship or volunteer groups, with Tweezy Multimedia and Latitude Technologies designing and maintaining the Festival website which proved to be the preferred source of information for those interested in the Festival.

A full report on the Festival is being compiled by the Event co-ordinator, Paul Cullen, and this will form the basis of next year's event.



ICE BREAKER'S MIDWINTER FESTIVAL DIARY

THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2002

Attended the screening of 'The Endurance' at the State Theatre, North Hobart, with my younger son. Worth seeing, but I agree with a film critic's comments that the actors always looked too clean despite difficult circumstances.

FRIDAY JUNE 13, 2002

Met other TPN members at the Office Of Antarctic Affairs to sample drinks containing 20,000-year-old ice blocks, prior to the opening of the Festival by Premier Jim Bacon in Salamanca Square. Enjoyed 'Cinderella', the music and the food until it rained too heavily. (PS Was not affected by any ancient Antarctic viruses in the ice!)

SUNDAY JUNE 16, 2002

Visited the Huskies Picnic at Parliament House Gardens and enjoyed meeting several malamutes, huskies and their owners. Watched malamutes, attempting to haul a sledge overloaded with young children, have a difficult time in the muddy grass, but eventually succeed in pulling them along the path.

An invitation to join the inaugural Antarctic History Walk was irresistible. After watching a short Antarctic documentary in Antarctic Adventure, a small group of us toured historic sites in the Sullivan's Cove area, with commentary from John Williamson, an historian, and Rod Ledingham, formerly of the Australian Antarctic Division. As most of us in this group had a few other historical references to the area, the exchange of information made this walk very interesting, despite having to shelter under umbrellas most of the time.

My son and I also visited the Antarctic Careers Expo and were interested to see the range of jobs on offer.

FRIDAY JUNE 21, 2002

Toured Wayne Papps' inspiring, panoramic Antarctic photographs in the Waterside Pavilion and 'Treasures from the Freezer' at the Tas. Museum and Art Gallery, the latter being full of enthusiastic school children. Also noted several school groups en route between the Print Museum, TMAG and Salamanca Square.

SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2002

Checked into the Hobart Grand Chancellor in the afternoon with my son, so we could attend several events and not have to drive home late. Firstly, we visited the Print Museum's Antarctic news display and toured the photos in HGC's foyer. Then we attended the Inaugural Phillip Law Lecture by Sir Guy Green, Governor of Tasmania, who gave a well-researched and interesting speech about Antarctica.

While my son enjoyed a meal and TV in our room, I attended the Midwinter Dinner in the Grand Ballroom, with over 260 others from the local and interstate Antarctic community. We were entertained by Guest of Honour, Dr Phillip Law, ABC's Tim Bowden, and a 1950's Antarctic film which had us all feeling seasick when the ship ploughed through heavy swell (or was it the wine?). The delicious food and drink, and interesting people to talk to, made this a wonderful midwinter event.

I was unable to attend more films and displays because of work and domestic commitments, but congratulate all those involved in the co-ordinating, sponsoring and volunteering groups who made such a range of activities accessible to the public.

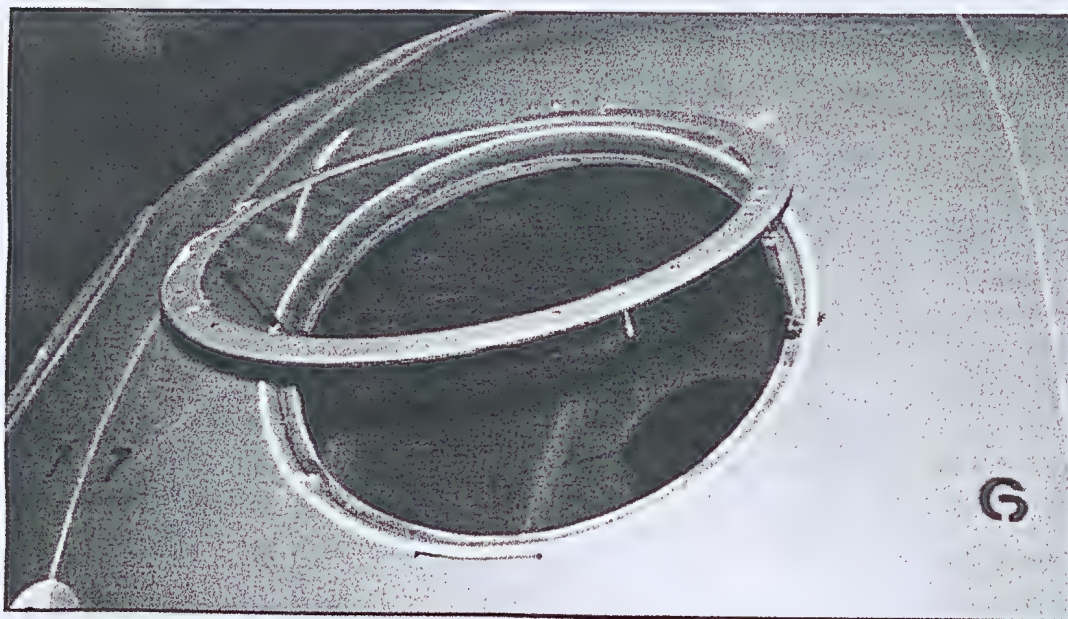
NB: The Festival website will be maintained while next year's Festival takes shape. Check www.antarctic-tasmania.info for updates.

IGLOO SATELLITE CABINS: YEARS 10-15

2002 marks the twentieth year since the first fibreglass Igloo Satellite Cabin was designed and manufactured in Kettering, Tasmania, by Malcolm Wallhead. Although Malcolm died as a result of an accident in October 2000, Igloos continue to be manufactured according to his specifications and exported all over the world. Between 1992 and 1997, tropicalised Igloos were more in demand. (Continued from Issue 19)

IGLOOS NO. 87 TO NO.112, 1992-1996

Germany continued to be the best purchaser of polar Igloos in 1992, with another 4 being purchased for use in Antarctica by the Alfred-Wegener-Institute in Bremerhaven. However, Igloo 090 was ordered by the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service and was the first fully 'tropicalised', extended Igloo used for bird observations. Coloured green to suit the environment on Cabbage Tree Island off the NSW coast, this Igloo featured an extended roof section, window shade hoods, mosquito-proof air vents and seven opening windows.



Opening window for tropicalised Igloo

Another German polar institute ordered the next Igloo and sent Tender documents, in German, although MW&A were the sole suppliers. Examination and translation of the papers by a University lecturer revealed a large section was only relevant to the then East Germany, which meant it was not so difficult to provide them with required information.

A marine research institute in The Netherlands ordered the next 2 Igloos as part of a centralised equipment supply for any polar research. This enabled Dutch expeditioners, with Igloo, to conduct research in Antarctica in conjunction with a larger English expedition for example.

One of the next Igloos sold had quite an adventurous life. The National Parks Service on Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean ordered 2 green Igloos for use on North Keeling Island. In order to cause minimal disturbance to nesting birds, both Igloos were shipped to the island and taken ashore, a few panels at a time, on an inflatable boat. One year, the rangers had difficulty locating one of the Igloos, as it had been moved from its original location. It was eventually found, disassembled, all nuts and bolts removed, and hidden closer to the shore. Rangers believed that Indonesian fishermen had found it and had taken it apart so that it could be taken aboard one of their boats and taken home. Replacement parts were sent so that the Igloo could be reassembled for continued bird observations.

The Instituto Oceanografico in Ecuador purchased the next Igloo, which was airfreighted from Sydney to Ecuador in time to be shipped to Antarctica. Unfortunately, the airline carrying the consignment decided to

Continued next page >



100th Igloo for
ENEA, Italy, set
up in Princes
Wharf Shed No.1

Igloo furniture:
Shelves, seats and
adjustable
shelving for
extension sections



Tropicalised Igloo
with extended roof
section and window
shade hoods

offload the Igloo at Auckland, NZ for 3 weeks, without informing the freight forwarders, MW&A or the purchasers. Having missed the ship at Ecuador, the Igloo was flown Auckland to Punta Arenas to enable the Ecuadorian expedition to continue. The airline's request for extra payment to cover the rerouting was refused, with sufficient documentation being sent to their head office proving they were at fault.

The sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands became the site of the next polar Igloo, ordered by NZ's Department of Conservation, and Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute ordered 2 more extended Igloos, taking the total sold to 99. The Italian institute, ENEA, who had purchased Igloos previously, were the recipients of Igloo No 100, plus 3 more, for their base at Terra Nova Bay. Although all Igloos had to be completed for shipment directly from Hobart, Malcolm Wallhead and Associates made time to celebrate the 100th Igloo by setting it up in Princes Wharf Shed No.1 and inviting members of the Tasmanian Polar Network and suppliers of materials to an afternoon function on 12 October, 1994.

Fewer Igloos were sold in 1995, with one going to a film company in NZ, another being sold to the Dutch marine research institute who had ordered previously and a bright green extended Igloo to the Australian Antarctic Division for use on Macquarie Island. The curved ends of this Igloo were fully sealed before sprayfoaming for extra waterproofing on the island.

IGLOO FURNITURE

Furniture for Igloos was produced when requested, with most items having to fit the sprayfoamed, curved wall surfaces. For all basic Igloos, bunks were designed to fit the curve of 2 wall panels, but had to be tapered each end so that 3 could be fitted next to each other if necessary. These bunks could also be placed one on top of another to make a 'double work bench', twice the height and with more storage space underneath.

Shelves fitting a single wall panel were also tapered each end so that others could be fitted next to them. These shelves could be extended with a hinged flap (a desk), or be provided with a sink and piping for drainage. For extended Igloos, sets of adjustable shelves were made and later, straight seats and bunks were designed. One order from the AAD requested 38 bunks, 6 shelves and 23 desks. Igloos served a variety of purposes, including mess halls, laboratories, observation posts for space, wildlife and fires, bedrooms, as well as toilet and shower units.

An order for 3 Igloos from the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) was received in 1996, and once again, freighting these to a South American port on time to be shipped to an Antarctic summer research site proved difficult. All Igloos were packed in fibreglass crates to fit in one container, which was shipped via USA to Santiago, Chile. The container was then due to be on-freighted to Punta Arenas, where KORDI's agent would load aboard a Chilean icebreaker hired to offload the Igloos at KORDI's base on the Antarctic Peninsula. No delays in shipment were expected and it was not until the agent contacted MW&A because the consignment had not arrived that finding the Igloo became urgent. The freight forwarder being used contacted his Santiago agents who could not find the container. MW&A then contacted Austrade in Santiago who, with persistence, eventually found the container and organised it to be shipped to Punta Arenas. By then it was too late to ship the Igloos to the Peninsula and a season's research was lost. The Igloos remained in Punta Arenas until the following year. The freight forwarder used was not dealt with again.

The Chilean Antarctic Institute ordered a large blue Igloo in October 1996 for a new base in Antarctica. The floor panels for this Igloo were fibreglassed over the sprayfoam to make the Igloo easier to slide over the snow like a sledge to its new position the following year. NZ's Department of Conservation ordered another Igloo, this time a white one for use on Chatham Islands for albatross observations. Unfortunately, the researchers had not checked with the Maori owners of the islands before this expedition, and permission for the Igloo to be assembled on site was initially refused. The last order for an Igloo this year came again from the German institute and this Igloo was shipped to Bremerhaven without incident.

In total, 26 Igloos were manufactured during these 5 years, the majority of them being exported. *The last 5 years saw MW&A receive their largest order to date, which included Ig-loos and showers!*



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THE WHALE REPORT

- The 54th International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting was held in Shimonoseki in Japan in May this year. Local merchants prepared special Western flavour plates including whale burgers, whale hotdogs and sausages. Once again, Japan intends to expand its scientific whaling research despite condemnation from 18 other countries. However, thousands of tonnes of whale meat were on sale in August to raise money to help fund this research.
- The IWC rejected a request from the USA and Russia to renew quotas for whaling by indigenous groups and also voted against Iceland's attempt to become a full member.
- Samples of whale meat analysed by Hokkaido University contained mercury 900 times the Japanese government's limit of 0.4 micrograms per gram of liver. However, these samples were from small toothed whales and dolphins, not the minke whales killed in Antarctic waters.
- Humpback whales migrating north this winter past the east coast of Australia are attracting an increasing number of observers. Last year at Cape Solander in NSW, 723 whales were seen in 61 days.
- The Whales Hotline in Tasmania is available on 6233 6556 or 0418 123 772, all hours. The Nature Conservation Unit of the Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment is interested to know of all sightings.
- For further information on whales, contact the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans (ORRCA) on www.orrca.org.au or their Hotline to report stranded whales, (02) 9415 3333, all hours.
- The Blue Whale Migration Project, developed to raise funds for research, is being supported by the Australian Geographic Society and 'whale tattoos' are available at their shops.
- The International Fund for Animal Welfare now provides training of whale-watch operators, whale-watch guidelines, technical advice and funding for research, and has set up

a Marine Awareness Centre on the Tongan island of Vava'u.

- A whale carcass washed ashore in southern Japan is believed to be that of a rare Longman's beaked whale. Only 2 other examples have been documented, and Japanese whale scientists are seeking Australian scientists' help to confirm the find.

TPN MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- New member **Tastex**, Tasmania's leading clothing manufacturer, featured in the Mercury's 'Business in Profile' section on July 25, 2002.
- **Bill Bleathman**, former Director of the Office of Antarctic Affairs and now new Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, featured in the Australian on July 5, 2002.
- **Antoine Guichard**, Latitude Technologies, attended the 11th International Conference of Cold Regions Engineering in Anchorage, Alaska this year.
- **Anthea Wallhead**, Malcolm Wallhead and Associates, featured in the Australian on July 15, 2002 and Igloo Satellite Cabins were included in a list of Tasmanian Innovations in the Mercury in August. Igloo models were included in a display accompanying the University of Tasmania's Centre for Historical Studies Conference entitled 'Originally Tasmanian: Creativity and Innovation in the Island State' on August 24, 2002.
- **Bill Lawson** of SKM used the Tasmanian Polar Network as an example of a Cluster at the recent 'Manufacturing – A Dynamic and Profitable Future' Conference at Wrest Point Casino.

POLAR TOURS

Visits to Spitzbergen in the High Arctic to view polar bears and paddle in fiords are being offered by Aurora Expeditions this year. Contact www.auroraexpeditions.com.au

An excursion on the *Peregrine Mariner* sails to Plenau, Antarctica this summer. Contact www.peregrineadventures.com for further information.

CITY OF THE SNOW DRAGON

Shanghai, commercial capital of China, lies at 31° 14" north/121° 29" east just to the south of the estuary of the Yangtze River. Its origins date back to 751 AD. The population, as at the end of 2001, was 13.2 million. Just look at the skyline and you can see their all out enthusiasm for economic progress and for architectural style. Shanghai wants to be one of the world's best and its rate of progress is fast track.

Shanghai is also the home port of the Xue Long (Snow Dragon) and the home of the Polar Research Institute of China, the scientific body that was responsible for organising this year's SCAR/SCALOP/COMNAP meetings and the associated exhibition. They, together with the Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration (CAA) from Beijing were our hosts. Our party (Bill Bleathman, Dick Burgess, Richard Fader and myself) was joined by Norman Mackay and Terry Vickers of Skytraders, who were there to make sure no one went away without knowing about THE airlink!

I was the last of the party to arrive in Shanghai, so everyone was well and truly settled before I came on the scene. As it turned out the advice we had on the hotel couldn't have been better. Shanghai at this time of year is always hot and sticky but for us they produced record temperatures of 37-39 degrees with what felt like 100% humidity (and probably was), even when it wasn't raining. As the hotel was next door to the exhibition centre we certainly suffered less than many others.

Setting up the stand took only a minimum of time. After all the freight expenses and associated hassles in Japan, we had decided that the best way to go would be to have everything hand transportable. So, for the display we commissioned posters with display stands that collapsed, and stored the posters rolled up inside. These stands were so practical, and thanks to the creative excellence of Belinda Pingala Walsh, made quite an impact. P & O Polar and Skytraders agreed to the same format for their posters, so we were very well co-ordinated. We also were well armed with copies of the excellent CD ROM produced by Phil Wood of Tweezy Multimedia & Software Development. As a result we were kept very busy on the stand. Everyone wanted one!

From our point of view, our Chinese hosts were very organised and nothing seemed to be too much trouble. The organising committee of scientists from the Polar Institute did an excellent job, and we actually got to meet some of them. Dr. Wen Jiahong, Professor, who was in charge of the exhibition, was extremely helpful helping us with some customs problems, as was his colleague Huang Dehong. Parker Zhang, who organised all the accommodation, called round to see us on more than one occasion. The organisers even arranged for students for the Shanghai Maritime University who were training to be interpreters to be there to assist us and make us feel welcome. Morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks were held in the exhibition centre, making it much easier for conference delegates to visit the stands. For lunch, in the basement cafeteria, we had either western or Chinese food.

We had visitors from all the nations at the stand, many of whom had enjoyed Tasmanian hospitality at one time or another and were keen to repeat the experience. Looking at the video on the CD ROM which we had running continuously, brought back fond memories to many. Others were fascinated to be able to see where we come from. Professor Yan Qide came to send his best wishes to his Tasmanian friends. He spent some time in Hobart and is now semi-retired.

We were treated to two special banquets while we were there. The first was held by the Shanghai Municipal Administration in a beautiful banquet room with silver banquet bowls that would have graced my dining room very well! It was a very formal occasion with lots of toasts in Chinese style. The second was held especially for those participating in the exhibition. Our hosts were the CAA and the Polar Research Institute at the Equatorial Hotel. The atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed but it again was a formal affair with Chinese style toasts. Whole tables migrated to toast other tables and the number of courses was a real challenge. Each exhibition stand formally received a special plaque in recognition of their involvement, which was a thoughtful touch.

We had decided before we left that it would be appropriate for us to hold a couple of soirées in recognition of the Antarctic nations who had supported Hobart over the years. These soirées we were told were much appreciated. We invited the French and Italians to join us on one night, and the Chinese and Russians on another night. Tony Press and a number of AAD conference delegates joined us on both nights, as well as

POLAR CALENDAR



3-7	September	2002	Committee for Environmental Protection meeting.
6	September	2002	Tasmanian Polar Network Annual General Meeting. 11.00am-1.00pm. Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tas.
10-20	September	2002	XXV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. Warsaw, Poland.
10-21	September	2002	Summer school on Ice Sheets and glaciers in the Climate System. Karthaus, Italy. Contact j.oerlemans@phys.uu.nl
29 4	September October	2002- 2002	International Snow Science Workshop 2002. Penticton, British Columbia, Canada. Contact chair@issworkshop.org
7-16	October	2002	Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment. Hobart, Tasmania.
21-25	October	2002	Scientific Committee Annual Meeting. Hobart Tasmania.
21 1	October November	2002- 2002	CCAMLR annual meetings. Hobart, Tasmania.
27	October	2002	Final day for 'Lines on the Ice: The Australasian Antarctic Exhibition 1911-1914'. State Library of NSW, Sydney, NSW.
8	November	2002	Temporal & Spatial Structure of Magnetic Reconnection on the Earth's Magnetopause conference. Geological Society Lecture Theatre, London, UK. Contact British Antarctic Survey.
2-6	December	2002	16 th IAHR International Symposium on Ice. Dunedin, NZ. Contact nzice@physics.otago.ac.nz
?	December	2002	NIPR Biology Symposium.
13-14	January	2003	Conference on Cryospheric Systems. Burlington House, London, UK Contact harrisc@cardiff.ac.uk
25-30	May	2003	ISOPE-2003, 13 th International Offshore and Polar Engineering Conference Honolulu, Hawaii. Contact meetings@isope.org

CITY OF THE SNOW DRAGON (continued)

Hugh and Carol Hutchinson. Their support was very welcome. Skytraders not only lent us their moral support but also helped out financially.

It was good to be able to discuss issues in an intimate relaxed atmosphere, to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Some of you will remember the Russian delegates from St Petersburg, Victor, who spent some time in Hobart working with Lorne, and Valery, and Gerard Jugi and Patrice from France. Our Chinese guests were from the CAA in Beijing, and included the Director Qu Tanzhou and Operations Manager Wu Jun and we were delighted to put a face to one name we had been dealing with regarding supply to Zhong Shan station. After our talks with our Italian guests, we are hopeful that we may be able to work closer with them in the not too distant future. Everyone was interested in the air link, particularly the inter-station link with the Casa.

All in all, we all felt that it was a most successful trip, one we will all have fond memories of. The next meeting is in Bremerhaven, Germany in 2004. Just enough time to polish up your German!!!

Geraldine Edwards.



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POLAR PUBLICATIONS



BOOKS

'LIFE ON THE ICE' by Roff Smith. Published by Allen & Unwin. Price: \$29.95.

The author, a journalist for National Geographic, spent several months getting to know Antarctic communities operating within the bureaucracies which now control their activities.

'SOUTH WITH ENDURANCE: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FRANK HURLEY'. Published by Viking. Price: \$75.

A new publication including all Hurley's images of Shackleton's 1914-17 expedition, Hurley's diary entries, a biography and discussion of photographic techniques.

'THE ICE CHILD' by Elizabeth McGregor. Published by Dutton 2001. Price: Unknown.

Based around Franklin's last expedition in the Arctic, this novel alternates between well-researched information about this expedition and an urban tale of a reporter's relationship with an Arctic archaeologist.

'CAMPBELL ISLAND 1955-1956 – 1958-1960' by George Pupleton. Enquiries jenifa@paradise.net.nz Price: US\$30.

Describes NZ station life and nature observations during these years.

'THE SEAL WIFE' by Kathryn Harrison. Published by Fourth Estate. Price: \$27.95.

A novel set in the early 20th century about a scientist, based in an Alaskan weather station, and his relationship with his strangely powerful indigenous wife.

'POLAR UPDATES: ANTARCTICA'. 2002-03 edition published by Poles Apart, UK. Price: \$US185. Available via email at polarupdates@polesapart.org or by downloadable order form at www.polesapart.org.

'FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN SHARKS AND RAYS'. Published by CSIRO, Hobart in August 2002.

'PETER BLAND – EXPEDITION ANTARCTIC PENINSULA' by Richard Yallop. Published by Pan MacMillan. DUE NOVEMBER 2002.

VIDEOS:

'WANDERERS OF THE DEEP – DOLPHINS AND WHALES'. Produced by Reader's Digest and the BBC's Natural History Unit. Available only from Reader's Digest. Price: \$77.98 inc. postage.

FILM IN THE MAKING:

'30 DAYS OF NIGHT'. A series of 3 comic books by Steve Niles, about vampires that invade a town near the Arctic Circle in Alaska, is being adapted to film by *Spider Man* director Sam Raimi.

MAWSON'S HUT ATTENTION

Dr Sharman Stone, Parliamentary Secretary for the Antarctic, recently announced that an expedition will be travelling to Commonwealth Bay this summer to assess and preserve the historic remains of Mawson's Hut and its contents. An 8-member team will carry out conservation work on artifacts revealed and damaged when higher summer temperatures caused the ice and snow to melt.

The team consists of an archeologist, carpenters with heritage experience, a materials conservator, a structural engineer and a heritage architect. The French Antarctic ship *L'Astrolabe* will leave Hobart with the team in mid-October for Cape Denison. The group will be put ashore by helicopter and be picked up after 8 weeks. Any items considered too delicate or damaged to remain in Antarctica will be returned to Australia.

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ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

29	September	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V1.1	Departs Cape Town, South Africa.
6-9	October	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V1.1	Mawson Base.
13-16	October	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V1.1	Davis Base.
13-22	October	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart, trials & marine science.
15	October	2002	L'ASTROLABE V1.2	Departs Hobart for Antarctica.
22-25	October	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V1.1	Casey Base.
25-26	October	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Macquarie Island.
25-28	October	2002	L'ASTROLABE V1.2	Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay.
30	October	2002-		
19	November	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Marine Science.
3	November	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V1.1	Arrives Hobart.
19	November	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Arrives Hobart.
22	November	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Departs Hobart.
27	November	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Departs Lyttleton, NZ.
4-9	December	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Davis Base.
5	December	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Cape Denison.
9	December	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Casey Base.
10-12	December	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Sansom Island.
15	December	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Davis Base.
15-19	December	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Mawson Base.
17	December	2002	POLAR BIRD V3	Departs Hobart.
18	December	2002	L'ASTROLABE V2.2	Cape Denison.
20	December	2002	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Mawson Base.
26	December	2002	L'ASTROLABE V2.2	Arrives Hobart.
26	December	2002-		
1	January	2003	POLAR BIRD V3	Casey Base.
31	December	2002	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Hobart.
3	January	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V4.1	Departs Hobart.
3	January	2003-		
9	February	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Departs Hobart, Marine Science.
7	January	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V4.1	Macquarie Island.
10	January	2003	POLAR BIRD V3	Arrives Hobart.
13	January	2003	POLAR BIRD V5	Departs Hobart.
26	January	2003-		
1	February	2003	POLAR BIRD V5	Mawson Base.
31	January	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V4.1	Arrives Bluff, NZ.
1	February	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Arrives Lyttleton, NZ.
3-4	February	2003	POLAR BIRD V5	Sansom Island.
9	February	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Mawson Base.
5-7	February	2003	POLAR BIRD V5	Davis Base.
13-26	February	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Marine Science.
19	February	2003	POLAR BIRD V5	Arrives Hobart.
25	February	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V5.2	Departs Invercargill, NZ.
26-27	February	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Base.
1-2	March	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V5.2	Macquarie Island.
1-4	March	2003	POLAR BIRD V7	Casey Base.
2-3	March	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Mawson Base.
7	March	2003	AK. SHOKALSKI V5.2	Arrives Bluff, NZ.